

K-8 Social Studies Grade Level Content Expectations Announcement

The Office of School Improvement is proud to announce that the new K – 8 Grade Level Content Expectations for Social Studies were adopted by the State Board of Education on October 1, 2007. The approval included a request for the addition of content expectations at grade four that address Michigan history beyond statehood. Nine additional expectations were approved at the December 11, 2007 meeting and have been included in the updated v. 12-07 document. This document can be found at www.michigan.gov/glce.

The study of Michigan history has been specifically included in grades three and four. Michigan history from its beginnings through statehood is included in Michigan Studies (with Michigan geography, economics and government) in grade three as was originally proposed.

Michigan history beyond statehood is included in grade four as a component of United States Studies. The addition in grade four of expectations that address Michigan history from statehood to the present will facilitate the use of Michigan as a case study when teaching about United States geography, economics, and government. These additional expectations do not suggest that fourth grade teachers must find a way to teach all of Michigan history beyond statehood. Rather, the Michigan history expectations represent extensions of grade three expectations and examples from Michigan history that can be effectively used to teach geographic, civic, and economic concepts.

By the end of grade four, students should be able to use examples from Michigan history to demonstrate temporal thinking (chronology) and to explain geographic, civic, and economic concepts.

Districts may choose to address all Michigan history expectations at grade three, or to address all grade three and four expectations in another organization within two years of study encompassing Michigan and the United States. Whatever the organization, teachers are encouraged to make connections to events in Michigan history when studying the United States in elementary, middle, and high school social studies classes.